



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION
Western Federal
Lands Highway
Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

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MEDICINE LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

MEDICINE LAKE HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

MONTANA REFUGE ROAD PROJECT MELA 900(1)

This week started out going well except one of the equipment operators from Lewistown quit and went back home on Saturday. By Tuesday afternoon two more employees quit and they too followed their step dad back to Lewistown. Their complaint was "too much hand work". That's why the R/V court in Medicine Lake looks so empty. Short of help the Foreman started looking and shouting for anyone wanting to work. Somehow the word got out and Thursday Allen Engelke showed up to help out. He said he could help out with the excavation and get the gravel to grade. On Friday morning another local showed up and I understand he too landed a job. The workforce of locals now outnumbers the "out-of-towners". It's always great to see how folks pitch in and help, when help is needed to get the job done.

With the rain came a stop to excavation. Perhaps on Monday the weather will allow us to get back to digging and perhaps finish what remains of the excavation. Right now the front of headquarters building is a muddy mess. It could have been worse, but shutting down early avoided added cleanup.

This week we changed the layout design and with one of the rock planters already in bad condition, cracked and split from installing waterline years ago and a new crack after the excavator bumped it, the decision was made to remove both. This made good sense as it allows the new reinforced concrete to extend up to the building rather than skirt around those planters. It gives the option to use the area for parking or construct new planters later. It also helps the layout of the concrete forming, win-win situation for both refuge and contractor.

The goal the Foreman is striving for is starting the concrete work on the morning of June 19th weather permitting. If that does happen you will see some new faces in town as the contractor is bringing in some experienced concrete finishers to handle the nearly 800 yards of concrete that will be poured in 7-days.

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